

Application No. 10/671,260  
6546.200US

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### REMARKS

Upon entry of the following amendment, claims 1 – 4, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 14 – 37 are pending. Claim 12 has been cancelled. These amendments add no new matter.

### THE 35 U.S.C. §103(A) REJECTION

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 4, 7, 8, 10 – 12 and 14 – 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 00/55119 taken with Zivanovic *et al.* (Biomedical Chromatography, Vol. 14, pp. 56-57, 2000).

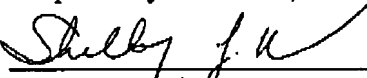
As stated by the Examiner, the primary reference (i.e. WO 00/55119) does not teach or suggest the addition of an acid such as sulphuric acid, methanesulphuric acid or trifluoroacetic acid. In order to further clarify the presently claimed invention, Applicants have incorporated the aprotic polar solvent and acid limitations of claims 6 and 9 into claim 1. Applicants have incorporated the acid limitations of claim 12 into claim 1. Thus, claim 1 as amended now recites “an acid, wherein said acid is selected from the group consisting of sulphuric acid, methanesulphonic acid and trifluoroacetic acid.” Accordingly, in light of the present amendment, Applicants believe that the rejection is now moot.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and issue. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this application and to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1447. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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